



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

this exceedingly delicate power in such a manner that in the long run the people have been satisfied, however much they have disapproved of particular decisions; and to the people because it shows the disposition to abide by the law and to settle conflicts in a peaceful way by an appeal to reason.

Dr. Haines closes by referring to "the loss of prestige of the United States Supreme Court on account of the Dred Scott decision, the complete subordination of judicial authority during the war, and the notable reverses in the attempt to interfere with reconstruction." In 1870, he says, the authority of the courts might seem to have been on the decline.

It would be most interesting to have an equally careful monograph tracing the history of the exercise of the powers of the court since 1870, especially of the numerous cases growing out of the construction put upon the fourteenth amendment, and the commerce clause.

F. J. SWAYZE.

Supreme Court of New Jersey.

The Gilds of China. With an Account of the Gild Merchant or Co-Hong of Canton. By HOSEA BALLOU MORSE. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company, 1909. Pp. 92.)

This is a very timely work, appearing at a time when the eyes of the whole world are upon the East, and when economic motives are uppermost. The conditions described by Mr. Morse are about such, so far as the gilds are concerned, as the later Middle Ages present in England. There the municipalities coalesced with the gilds, then the national government rapidly gained a dominating control over the municipalities, and the gilds disappeared. In China there is no tendency as yet for the gilds to ally themselves with the government or to come under government control. The government of China is organized for two purposes only—police and taxation; consequently gilds have maintained themselves in complete independence of public authorities, enforcing the rights of their members, and those of the gilds as a whole, by a system of fines and penalties imposed by their own organization. They have become so strong that a boycott against one of their members, or against another gild, or even the public authorities, can

be put into operation so swiftly, so quietly and so effectively, as to put a complete stop to the trade affected. This means, of course, that the boycott is almost instantaneously successful.

Religion has never been so important in the guilds of China as in those of Europe. The *gild merchant* has never played an important rôle; nor have the secondary functions performed by the English guilds been of any considerable importance, such as bestowing alms or administering benevolent funds. The dominant type in China is the craft gild. They have grown up entirely apart from the government, without license or grant. Nor have they ever adopted the policy of compelling craftsmen to join their organization. The government being unable to protect the individual, he has gone to them voluntarily for protection. Some of the strongest of the Chinese guilds are composed of people of one district or province trading with another, hence the organization is quite democratic. While there is considerable diversity in administrative practice, it is customary for the members of the gild to submit their books and accounts to an examination on behalf of the gild; this auditing is done, in turn, by representatives of the different persons, or firms, belonging to the gild.

The following quotation gives the author's estimate in reference to the influence of the guilds upon Chinese industry and enterprise: "All Chinese trade guilds are alike in interfering with every detail of business and demanding complete solidarity of interest in their members, and they are alike also in that their rules are not a dead letter, but are actually enforced. The result is a tyranny of the many over the individual and a system of control which must by its nature hinder 'freedom of enterprise and independence of individual initiative' " (p. 24).

The guilds are quite independent of each other; each prescribes even its own standard of weights and measures. We do not find the distinction between masters and journeymen, so common in the history of English guilds. Both belong to one organization; and a strike for increase of wages is usually successful, because the masters know that it is safer to combine with the journeymen against the public than to permit the journeymen to disturb the peace, and thus incur the danger of being plucked themselves by the public officials.

JOHN H. GRAY.

University of Minnesota.